

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-48 and 58-65 are pending in the instant application. The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 16 due to informalities. Further, claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12-14, 17-19, 23, 27-30, 32, 36-39, 44-47, 58 and 62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 3-5, 11, 20-22, 24-26, 31, 33-35, 40-43, 48, 59-61 and 63-65 have been objected to, but have been indicated as being allowable but for their dependence on a rejected base claim. Applicant is grateful for indication of the same. Claims 3, 6 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 12-14, 16-20, 23 and 32 have been cancelled. The Applicant submits that pending claims 3-11, 21, 22, 24-31, 33-48 and 58-65 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 16 stand objected to for informalities. Specifically, the Examiner states that the phrase "tot eh" in line 14 of claim 1 should read "to the". The Examiner also states that claim 16 recites that it is dependent on cancelled claim 15. Claim 1 has been cancelled rendering objection thereto moot. However, correction as suggested by the Examiner has been made as the limitations of cancelled claim 1 are presently recited in claim 3 written in independent form. Further, claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 3 rather than from cancelled claim 15. Accordingly, claims 1 and 16 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner rendering the instant objection moot.

It is respectfully noted that claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 3 instead claim 1, since claim 1 has been cancelled by the present amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-2, 6-10, 12, 17-19, 23, 27-30, 58 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Leber et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0233455, hereinafter "Leber") in view of Heath et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,034, hereinafter "Heath") and further in view of Ellison et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,475,860,

hereinafter "Ellison"). Claims 13, 32 and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Leber in view of Heath, in view of Ellison, and further in view of Henry (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0182436, hereinafter "Henry"). Claims 14 and 44-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Leber in view of Heath, in view of Ellison, and further in view of Fanning (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0055920, hereinafter "Fanning"). Applicant respectfully traverses all of the rejections for at least the reason outlined below.

First, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 12-14, 16-20, 23 and 32 have been cancelled rendering any rejection thereto moot. Second, it is respectfully noted that claim 3 as been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claim 2). Further, the Examiner has indicated on pages 12 and 13 of the Detailed Action that claim 3 contains subject matter that defines over the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 4-11, 21, 22, 24-31, 33-48 and 58-65, define over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 3-11, 21, 22, 24-31, 33-48 and 58-65 under § 103(a) be withdrawn and allow the same to issue.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested. It is submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks should render the case in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, as the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious that which the applicant deems to be the invention, it is respectfully requested that claims 3-11, 21, 22, 24-31, 33-48 and 58-65 be passed to issue.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 15, 2006